IN THE SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

Please cancel paragraphs 043, 049, 052 and 054 of the Substitute Specification filed with the application. Please replace those cancelled paragraphs with replacement paragraphs, also 043, 049, 052 and 054, as follows.

[043] A third embodiment of a printing blanket unit, in accordance with the present invention, is represented in Fig. 5. This printing blanket unit also has a support plate 18 of sheet steel and a printing blanket 19 of rubber. To produce the ~~producethe~~ printing blanket unit, first the support plate 18 is fastened, by utilization of its legs 21 and 22, on a processing cylinder, whose shape corresponds to the shape of the printing blanket cylinder in the printing press on which the printing blanket unit is ultimately to be fastened. Following this placement, a sealing element 23 is inserted into the gap 26 between the legs 21 and 22 and is used for closing the gap 26 at the bottom of the gap 26. Thereafter, a liquid elastomer material is applied to the outside of the support plate 18 in such a way that the support plate 18 is enclosed in a continuous sub-structure layer 24 of this liquid elastomer. In the area of the oppositely located legs 21 and 22 of the support plate, the sub-structure layer 24 fills the gap 26 which is the space between the oppositely located folds or fold lines or fold zones 27 and 28.

[049] In the method shown in Figs. 9 and 10, the filler material 51, 52 extends in a virtual extension V43 of the exterior of the printing blanket 43 in the longitudinal direction, i.e. in the circumferential direction of the printing blanket 43. In this case, the filler material 51, 52 can protrude, in the longitudinal direction, past one end 61, 62, as well as past both ends 61, 62 of the printing blanket 43. In the radial direction, the filler material 51, 52 can protrude at least partially past the virtual extension V43 of the exterior of the printing blanket 43, as may be seen in Figs. ~~inFigs.~~ 10 and 11.

[052] As represented in Figs. 8, 11 and 12, the printing blanket unit 41 has at least one end 61 or 62 of a greater thickness than an area which is located between the two printing blanket ends 61 or 62, so that the outer surface of the printing blanket unit, in the area of this end 61 or 62, protrudes at least partially past the virtual extension V43 of the exterior of the printing blanket 43. In particular, this outer surface is embodied in a wedge shape. For thickening the end, the filler material 51, 52 is arranged at the ends of the printing blanket 43. In Figs. 8 and 12, an undercoating of the printing blanket at 43 can be seen, while in Fig. 11, a filling of the printing blanket 43 is represented.

[054] In the state where the printing blanket unit is mounted on the printing blanket cylinder, this thickened end, or both thickened ends extend in a radial direction past a virtual extension of the adjoining rubber blanket. An effective radius of the mounted rubber blanket is thus greater in the area of the ends. The area located inbetween is very much larger, and in particular is at ~~isat~~ least ten times greater, than the area of the ends. The thickening preferably extends in the circumferential direction by less than 10 mm, and in particular it extends less than 5 mm.